

THE AGAWAM

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Agawam's Hometown Newspaper

August 7, 1980

Nardi Declares War On Rubbish Removers

Councilor Frederick Nardi is spearheading a move to give the town's rubbish removal operation back to the Department of Public Works.

Failed In Performance

Nardi, the former selectman and long time political bigwig from Precinct One, says the town's current rubbish removal contractor, E. P. Hayes Inc of Rockyhill, Connecticut, has failed to provide residents with clean and efficient service.

Nardi says residents are "up in arms" over battered trash barrels and debris left near homes following daily pickups by the Connecticut-based firm.

"I think it's safe to say that people in this town are tired of the current service and it's time to go back to the way we used to do it."

That way, according to Nardi, is paying members of the DPW to provide residents with effective service. Nardi recalls his days as a selectman when the town was responsible for trash collection. He says the system was not without flaw, but he'd be willing to give "the old way" another opportunity rather than settle for the current method of contracting the job out.

Town Council obviously agrees with Nardi. At Monday's meeting councilors voted 15-0 to refuse a 20-percent pay increase request by E. P. Hayes Inc for services in fiscal 1980-81.

Currently, the company is on the final leg of a three year contract which was consummated by former Town Manager James D. Westman. The town has allocated \$99,300 for trash collection. Nardi says the requested increase would give E. P. Hayes an additional \$20,000.

"There is no way the town can go along with that," he remarked. Last year the trash company received \$91,963 for services rendered.

According to Acting Town Manager Edward Caba, there have been several problems with the current contractor who was the low bidder three years ago.

Figures Being Prepared

Caba told councilors Monday night that figures are now being prepared to see how feasible it would be for the town to assume again the trash collecting duties. He also revealed that the town is preparing a contingency plan "just to be safe; that if something happens to the current service, residents will still have their trash picked up."

Nardi received strong support from another former selectman, councilor Walter T. Kerr from Precinct Two.

Kerr urged Caba to expedite the plan to place trash pickups back into the town's jurisdiction as soon as possible.

"There is no question that we can save money in this instance by doing it ourselves, so why not do it?" Kerr commented.

Nardi says constituents have repeatedly complained about the trash situation in recent months, a situation which he says "is worsening all the time."

Jenks Is Back!

Jim Jenks and his popular column, "Kwik Klips" will be appearing in the Advertiser/News on August 28. Jim's back after a summer off and if you wish to publicize a sports event or offer some interesting briefs on your team or organization, write Jim at P.O. Box 263, Feeding Hills, 01030, or call 786-7747.

Fieldstad to Propose Reorganization

Town Council President Paul Fieldstad will resurrect an old and bitter debate from the days of former Town Manager James D. Westman in September when he presents to the council a reorganization plan for Town Hall.

In an interview today with *The Advertiser/News*, Fieldstad said the plan is a modification of the Westman blueprints which created a furor here.

No Funding Given

At the time, Westman proposed four division heads plus his own office to guide the many town departments. After Westman appointed his top administrators, the council refused to fund the entire reorganization.

A citizens' group calling itself "The Agawam Citizens For Good Government" filed suit against Westman to bottleneck his major reorganization scheme.

Fieldstad says the Town Charter grants the manager the powers to reorganize the municipal mechanisms. The reorganization would become effective if the council does not act on the proposal within 45 days. He added that the charter also empowers the council to reorganize, which, he says, "is something we should now do."

Fieldstad's plan, which the council president admits will "probably be modified by the council," calls for two administrators to function directly under the manager as "right hand men."

One of the two, the "Operations Officer," will have direct authority over five departments, which include the Library, Town Maintenance, Fire, Police and Public Works.

The second, the "Administration Officer," has under its jurisdiction six departments, including the Procurement Agent, Assessor, Health Agent, Treasurer, Consumer Protection Agent (weights and measures), and Special Services Agent (parks and rec, planning board, conservation commission).

While the town manager assumes complete responsibility for the overall municipal network, under Fieldstad's plan the Town Clerk's office and the Building Inspector will report directly to the manager.

Form Chain Of Commands

"What I think a reorganization plan does is to distinguish a chain of command and put some logic to it.

Right now there is no such rank and file command and that's not good," Fieldstad maintained.

Fieldstad noted that Westman's plan to create four main department heads, a director of public safety, public works, finance, and administration would not be necessary since the operations and administration officer in his plan would be sufficient to handle the additional workload.

He says that the two top administrators will originate from the ranks of existing department heads. "Of course they will receive additional pay because of the extra work involved in running their own departments and having jurisdiction over other departments.

Fieldstad remarked that the council would, as the final veto power in the community, initiate policy for the manager to execute. The Town Accountant and Board of Appeals would report directly to the council because each are council appointments.

"I think it's understood that we don't want to create any new positions but to reorganize and centralize what we have now," he commented. He added, "I know there is enough talent now at Town Hall to pull a reorganization off. I've been on the council for 9 years now and the only plan to save the taxpayers money and to centralize responsibility was shot down by the council. The time is here for another plan."

According to Fieldstad, the council must take measured steps to avoid the chaos that punctured Westman's reorganization. He recalled that personality conflicts and "jockeying for friends" was the costliest factor to Westman's plan being scrapped.

Under Fieldstad's plan the controversial ambulance service, once under the police department's control but now under the jurisdiction of the fire department, would be given back to the police.

Each councilor has received a copy of the proposed reorganization. Fieldstad says he will present the plan sometime in September and expects that the council will move on reorganization in some manner this fall.

Advertiser/News Team Clinches 1st



The Agawam Advertiser/News sponsored AAA 8-10 Boys team were National Division Champions in the just-completed season. Pictured from left to right, front row: Todd Greene, Vinny Cremonti, Brian Jarvis, Jeff Luttrell, Travis Hyland and Chris DiTomasso. Second row, Todd Hyland, Andy Allen, George Corgan and Dom DiTomasso. In rear are coaches John Hyland, Dan Greene and Joe Corrigan. photo by Jack Devine

Debate Heated And Testy...

Council O.K.'s Police Pact

The Police Patrolmen's Union, on the strength of Town Council's 11-4 vote Monday night, has received its three-year contract which had sat in limbo since councilors defeated the pact in February.

With union chief Edward Borgatti and 16 of his men looking on, councilors Richard Theroux, Francis Colli, and Walter Kerr helped push the contract through after a heated and testy debate.

The patrolmen will receive a retroactive 7 percent wage hike for fiscal 1979 and 10 percent increases for fiscal 1980 and 1981. The contract also includes several new fringe benefits.

The contract was signed by former Town Manager Peter Caputo last December several days before he resigned. It was Caputo's resignation more than any other factor that kept the contract stalemate since councilors rejected it in February, according to several contract proponents.

The contract did not receive the council's blessing without sharp criticism from councilors William Herd, Paul Paleologopoulos, and Alfred Trehey.

Trehey complained that the contract should have been renegotiated by the administration and that he was under the impression such action was being taken. He was also strongly opposed to the overall wage hikes and

fringe benefits granted to patrolmen.

Paleologopoulos was upset that by passing the contract the council would "never know its power" over labor negotiations. He said his problem with the contract was not over the negotiations between Caputo and the union.

Herd, although later supporting the contract, called the pact a "giveaway" which instantly drew an objection from Theroux, who warned Herd to cease "taking shots along the way."

Herd did say that the police deserve a raise but added the hike should be in line with raises granted to other municipal unions.

According to Caba, the council had no choice but to fund the contract, noting that the scheduled August 12 arbitration between the town and the union would result in Town Hall being forced to pay additional funds in interest and "possibly other monetary penalties."

Theroux commented that the council had hurt the morale of the police department by refusing to fund the contract and by refusing to initiate any policy for the administration to follow when bringing contracts to the council for funding.

Theroux promised to bring to the council floor several suggestions that will help form a contract policy between the manager and council. "But let's pass this contract first and not make it the scapegoat to prove a point," Theroux said.

Only Paleologopoulos, Trehey, Elaine Bonavita, and John Bartnik refused to support the contract.

According to Caba, the \$172,000 transferred from the free cash account to the contract covers the patrolmen's retroactive pay and pay for fiscal 1980-81.

Gallano Shows Interest In Money Earnings

A recent concern of citizens and municipal officials in the area has been directed to the financial workability of their available public funds and to the issue of whether money management techniques are being properly applied by town and city officials, said Town Treasurer David Gallano. Municipal treasurers usually invest revenue until it is needed.

Expressing some thoughts on the issue, Gallano confirmed that not only have the citizens and officials shown interest in the subject, but the Bureau of Accounts and the town's auditors, Coopers and Lybrand, constantly are preaching the subject of municipal money management. The treasurer recently received a "good" rating on his investment program from the Bureau of Accounts of the State Department of Revenue.

Controlling millions of dollars in taxpayer funds creates an opportunity for the treasurer to take advantage of the high interest rates currently being paid, Gallano said. In addition, the continued activity in Agawam relative to bonding of new projects and the inclusion of additional federal and state funds adds impetus for further interest earning investments.

According to Gallano, the 1980 fiscal year saw interest rates as high as 17% being paid to the town. At that rate, a million dollars invested in a Certificate of Deposit, invested for one month, would return interest in the amount of \$14,167.

During fiscal 1980, the town treasurer, using a continuing turn-over of an average investable fund of 5 1/2 to 6 million dollars, has enriched the town treasury by an amount in excess of \$319,000. This is equivalent to \$1.60 on the tax rate. Over \$200,000 was earned in fiscal 1979.

Gallano also noted that he has not had to borrow any money in anticipation of taxes since 1975, though prior to that time, it was common practice to do so. He attributed the ability to avoid borrowing to the combining of the treasurer and collector's offices into one, to beefed up tax collections, and the utilization of the town's computer by his department staff, which has resulted in a streamlining of investment and billing procedures.

The recent approval, by the Town Manager and the Town Council, for the rental of a cash management data terminal allows for immediate initiation and confirmation of wire transfers and daily bank balances of investable funds, Gallano explained. "This allows the treasurer to invest short term cash on a daily basis and to make it known what funds are available for weekend investments," he stated. The terminal is being made available through the cooperation of Rick Bellico,

See Gallano page 3

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

August 10th Aga. UNICO Chicken Bar-be-que Polish American Club 1-5 p.m.	Saturday, Aug. 16 Masonic Temple Clambake Valley Community Church 11 A.M.
August 13th Eclectical League of Agawam Lions Club Benefit Skating Party Rollaway Rink 8 p.m.	August 24th St. Anthony's Chicken Bar-B-Q Polish American Club Feeding Hills 12 noon - 4 p.m.
August 16th Polish American Club Chicken Bar-B-Que 7 p.m.	



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Gallano continued from page 2

branch manager representative of the BayBank Valley Trust in Agawam.

Unlike some municipalities in the area, as reported by the press, Agawam does not maintain millions of dollars on deposit in non-interest bearing accounts. We do carry a relatively small open balance to cover daily transactions, though, said Gallano.

Gallano stated that the present available funds of the town is \$5,307,921. An indication of the success of the treasurer's investment policy and program clearly shows in the 92.6% currently invested in interest-bearing accounts. Only \$390,571 is in open active non-interest accounts.

A further check shows that \$824,036 of that amount is invested in 5.25% to 7.5% accounts and \$4,093,312 is in 7.5% and over accounts. Banks used by the treasurer for investment purposes are BayBank Valley, Third National Bank, Park West Bank, Harbor National Bank, and the Massachusetts Municipal Depository Trust.

Recently, interest rates have fallen sharply, according to Gallano, however, he indicates that his office will earn more than its share again in his fiscal year - having already accounted for earnings in excess of \$50,000 for the month of July 1980.

Lori Woodruff Scholarship Recipient

Lori Ann Woodruff, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Woodruff of 135 Thalia Drive, Feeding Hills was recently awarded a \$2,500 scholarship from Standex International Corporation, Salem, New Hampshire.

Standex awards 36 scholarships annually to children of its employees. Mrs. Woodruff is employed as a secretary and credit manager at the NM Industries Divisions in West Springfield.

The award was presented by Mr. David Bowerman, Vice President/General Manager of NM Industries, a Division of Standex, at a dinner party for the recipient and her parents.

Lori will be attending Bay Path Junior College in September.

Reading Club To Meet

The summer reading club at the Agawam Public Library will meet Wednesday, August 13th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The Ha Ha Puppet Theatre will entertain.

Exercise Your Right To Vote

The Public Affairs Department of the Agawam Junior Women's Club would like to encourage the citizens of Agawam to register to vote. The deadline for the upcoming national election is Tuesday, August 19. The Town Hall will be open Saturday, August 16, from noon to 8 p.m. for your convenience. Don't let someone else's vote speak for you!!

School Sports' Budget "Workable"

Imagine the loss of all freshman and junior high sports here? How about drastic cuts from existing varsity programs? How would townspeople react to paying for their offspring to compete on the interscholastic level?

For the moment, and perhaps, for the near future, residents who have children participating in competitive sports on the junior high and high school levels can rest easy that such situations as listed above will not occur in Agawam.

Holyoke Horror Story

But Agawam is lucky, lucky indeed. The horror story of Holyoke where sports from grades 8-12 are hanging on the outcome on a fragile and bitter tug-of-war between the mayor and school board, has Athletic Director Clifford Kibbe uneasy. And not without due cause.

Holyoke's battle of the school budgets has spread to other communities. Everywhere school boards are slashing wherever possible, and, unfortunately for the young athletes, it's their programs which will fall to the axe first.

It's all part of this wild and often political ballgame of maintaining municipal budgets at the bare bone. When cuts come, the natural sequence is for programs to go.

Says Kibbe of the current budget dilemmas now infiltrating high school sports, "No doubt, if other towns begin cutting back, the fallout is carnivorous. You'd better believe we're all watching this Holyoke thing very closely."

For fiscal 1980-81, the School Committee gave Kibbe a budget of \$96,200, which he says is "most workable and fair."

The budget services, according to Kibbe, some 40 teams in the system, 25 boys' and 15 girls'. In fact, the school board budgeted funds for a girls soccer program at the Junior High. That's a clear indication that the

town falls outside the nail-biting category of other towns whose athletic programs are either dramatically cutback or have survived recent budget sessions by their chinny-chin-chins.

"What we've done over the past several years," says James Coon, the school department's business manager, "is to be very selective in what we buy. We also have cut down on our transportation."

Budget Remained The Same

Over the past few years the school's athletic budget has remained remarkably steady. In fiscal 78-79 Kibbe operated with \$97,000 and last year on \$95,250.

During that time the School Committee added several programs, including boys soccer and basketball and girls softball at the junior high and junior varsity field hockey and wrestling at the senior high.

See Sports page 7

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SOCIAL



Mrs. John A. Dillon

Donna Paul Weds John A. Dillon

In an evening ceremony held on August 1, 1980, in St. John the Evangelist Church, Donna Ann Paul, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Paul of 66 Channell Drive, Agawam, became the bride of John Anthony Dillon, son of Paul F. Dillon of 133 Littleton Street, Springfield, and the late Mrs. Dillon. Rev. Richard Runte officiated.

Susan M. Paul served as maid of honor with bridesmaids duties carried out by Lori Jean Paul, Carol Meehan, Linda Whapham, and Maria Molino.

Acting as best man was Paul Dillon Jr., with Stephen Dillon, David Paul, Andrew Paul, and Robert Morin serving as ushers.

Following a reception at Betty's Towne House, the couple left for a honeymoon trip to Nantucket Island.

The bride is a graduate of Agawam High School and a recent graduate of Bridgewater State College with a major in special education.

The groom is a graduate of Commerce High School, Springfield, and is employed as a machine operator at Titeflex in Springfield.

The couple plans to reside at 21 Channell Drive, Agawam.

St. Anthony's Church To Hold Barbeque

St. Anthony's Church of Agawam will hold their 18th annual family chicken barbeque sponsored by the Holy Name Society on Sunday, August 24 at the Polish American Club pavillion, 139 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills. Continuous servings will be from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

The menu will consist of half a chicken, corn on the cob, tossed salad, watermelon, bread, coffee and punch. Also available will be "honey bunch" orders to take out (bring your own container).

Tickets, donated through the courtesy of Toomey O'Brien Funeral Home will be \$3.75 for adults and \$1.75 for children and may be obtained from Holy Name Society members, at the Rectory, from ushers after Mass, at Mutti's Service Station, and at the door or you may call 786-3688, 786-2833 or 786-9574.

Door prizes, including 100 gallons of gas, a season lottery ticket and a G.E. Coffeematic, will be awarded.

Stuart Wilson Graduates

Stuart Wilson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wilson of Leonard Street, Agawam, graduated August 1st from East Tennessee State University. He received a master's degree in environmental health and was a member of the House Society.

Wilson is a 1969 graduate of Agawam High School. He has accepted a position with Wapora, Inc. of Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Summer Fun..The Price Is Right!!

POLISH AMERICAN CLUB Chicken Bar-B-Q



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Dance To Eddie Forman

8:00 - 12:00

Donation \$4.50

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Purchase tickets from UNICO
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Sponsored By Holy Name Society

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 1980

Continuous Serving
12-4 P.M.

AT POLISH CLUB PAVILION

139 Southwick St. Feeding Hills

Music To Entertain Guests

Adults \$3.75

Children Under 12 \$1.75

Purchase Tickets From members Or At Field Aug. 24

Rectory 786-3724 Frank Gatti 786-3688 "Gubby" Borgatti 786-2834
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Mrs. Edward A. Roy

Carrier-Roy Wedding Takes Place

On Saturday, August 2, 1980, the marriage of Diane Carrier, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andre Carrier of 47 Pleasant Valley Road, Feeding Hills, to Edward A. Roy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Roy of Norway, Maine, occurred in Sacred Heart Church, Feeding Hills. The Rev. Joseph Flood officiated.

A reception at Chez Josef, Agawam, followed the ceremony. A wedding trip to Bermuda was planned by the couple.

Serving as maid of honor was Maureen Deragon and bridesmaids were Nancy Carrier, Donna Roy, and Lisa Roy. Acting as best man was Lawrence Roy and as ushers were Eugene Carrier, Ferd Roy, and Gary Roy. Andre Carrier Jr. served as ring bearer.

The bride is a graduate of Agawam High School and is employed by John E. Mann Insurance Company, Springfield. The groom graduated from Oxford Hills High School in Maine and was formerly employed by Maurice Roy and Sons Construction Company of Norway, Maine.

The couple plans to reside in Feeding Hills.

Garden Club To Meet

The August meeting of the Agawam Garden Club will be held on August 12 from 6-9 p.m. at 164 South Street. A family picnic will be the event of the evening. Members and their immediate families are invited.

Those attending the meeting please bring a light lawn chair and your own picnic lunch. A barbeque grill will also be available.

Anyone having any questions or needing further information should call 786-5703.

HCC Announces Dean's List

The Dean's list for the spring semester at Holyoke Community College has been announced by Dr. Philip S. Campbell, Dean of the College at HCC.

Those named are students who earned a quality point average of 3.0 (B) or better or who carried at least 14 semester hours of work during the past semester. Those named are listed below:

From Agawam: Mary Ball, Cindy Berger, Diane Caroleo, Michelle Fieldstad, Daniel Germano, Douglas Hill, Dean Johnson, Robert Johnson, Philomena Napoli, Karen Patino, Timothy Reid, Emilia Santaniello, and Karen Thomas.

From Feeding Hills: Karen Gardner, Michelle Gregalis, Lisa Houlihan, Pamela King, Kathleen Raimondi, Christopher Robare.

Agawam Woman Contributes To Historical Journal

The editorial board of the *Historical Journal of Massachusetts* announce the publication of the June issue of the *Journal*, which includes a paper written by Agawam resident Karen A. Terrell. In her article, "Exposure of Prostitution in Western Massachusetts: 1911," she writes of the famous prostitute Carrie Pratt, and of the *Chicopee News* and their attempt to expose prostitution in Western Massachusetts. For more than twenty years Carrie Pratt was so well-known throughout the region that for generations it was common to say, "more business than Carrie Pratt."

Miss Terrell, a lifelong resident of Agawam, resides at 178 Regency Park Drive. She is the daughter of Enid L. Terrell of the same address and Douglas F. Terrell of 39 River Street, West Springfield. She is a 1963 graduate of Agawam High School and a 1964 graduate of Burbank Hospital School of Practical Nursing. Presently she is a senior at Westfield State College with a major of psychology and history. She is an active member of Psi Chi, the psychology National Honor Society, Phi Alpha Theta, the history National Honor Society, Treasurer of the History Club, and is on the editorial board of the *Historical Journal of Massachusetts*.

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EDITORIAL

Council Must Follow Through With Fair Contract Policy

Town Council's passage of the patrolmen's union's contract Monday night was a long overdue action.

It came almost 8 months after the pact was consummated by former Town Manager Peter Caputo and five months after the council refused to fund it in February.

In recent weeks we have repeatedly called for the council to pass the patrolmen's contract. We based our support on the premise that the police deserved the raise and that Caputo's signature was legal and binding and it followed bargaining in good faith by both the administration and union representatives.

But we have also strongly urged the council to form a policy on municipal contracts. A similar situation where the manager binds the community to a contract, and then the council turns around and refuses to release the funding can easily re-occur. And that's a tragic situation for all concerned parties.

In the past, the manager negotiated and signed labor agreements and then requested the council to release the funding.

But with the council's February refusal to fund the patrolmen's three-year 7, 10, and 10 percent wage hike, Pandora's box was reopened.

Now the council, for the first time, officially wants to exercise its authority over labor negotiations. The charter gives the manager the authority to sign and bind the community to a labor settlement.

Therefore, the council, in order to solve this potentially dangerous dilemma, needs to sit with the next town manager and formulate a concise policy that is fair not only to the council but to the administration and unions.

That's a tall order. But already, several councilors, including Richard Theroux, Walter Kerr, and President Paul Fieldstad have voiced their intentions of initiating a concrete policy sometime in September.

In fact, Theroux has placed on the agenda for the council's first meeting in September discussion of establishing such a policy.

Hopefully, and without further ado, the council will take this plaguing malady by the horns and settle the issue once and for all.

Summer Reading Is Important

by Donna Campbell
Chief Librarian

Did you know that one out of every five American adults is illiterate, according to the United States Department of Education? There has been much concern from parents and educators about why Johnny can't read. Such concern has created a national slogan of "back to basics" among parents, educators, and society in general.

Although the word *basics* can conjure up all kinds of tortuous dull images of drilling and memorization, what could possibly be more basic than the love of reading? Moreover, what could be a better time to encourage a love of reading along with a love of swimming, baseball and other pleasurable pastimes than the summer?

Recently, the library staff was delighted to hear an excited child joyfully exclaim, "Mommy, look at all the Dr. Seuss books here!" A child's first discovery of the joys to be found in books is truly a marvelous sight to behold. Books play an extremely significant role in a young child's life, but the magnitude of this role depends entirely upon adults and especially parents.

Reading is a skill that requires practice, but such practice can be fun since the key to summer reading for children is enjoyment. Many parents of reluctant readers might say, "Sure, I'd like to see you try to drag my child away from the TV set." Believe it or not, television or movies can be used to stimulate reading. For example, children who have enjoyed *Mary Poppins*, *Little House on the Prairie*, *Star Wars*, *Peter Pan*, *Wizard of Oz*, *The Black Stallion*, *The Empire Strikes Back*, Dr. Seuss, Walt Disney, and numerous other

Guest Editorial... Proposition 2½ Means Program Cuts

by David C. Gallano
Agawam Town Treasurer

Should Proposition 2½ be passed this year, Agawam would have to eliminate numerous programs such as rubbish and garbage pick-ups, youth services, recreation activities, reduced fire and police services, road construction programs, curtailment of school programs, reduced personnel, to name a few.

It has been calculated by the Committee on Taxation, House of Representatives, that the effect of passage of Proposition 2½ at the election in November would deal a devastating blow to Agawam's budget process with revenue losses of \$1,702,628 (property tax loss of \$808,759 and auto excise tax loss of \$893,859).

One provision of the bill is total taxes assessed on real and personal property is limited to 2½% of "full and fair cash value."

Based upon current equalized valuations, this limitation would mean an overall loss in income to the town of \$1,702,628, which is equivalent to 10% of our recently passed budget.

The Town of Agawam would have to reduce its tax levy (amount to be raised by tax on real estate and personal property) by at least 15% per year until the levy is 2½% (\$7,517,500) of full and fair cash value or down from the 1979 total of \$9,645,171.

If the law were now in effect, this would require that the town's legislative body and its administrators would have had to cut back \$2,107,000 from the present budget; eliminating \$319,000 or 15% each year for the next seven years in order to reduce the real estate and personal property tax to the point where it reaches the 1979-2½ percentage.

Once the 2½ limit is reached (maximum of seven years), the property tax levy may then be increased by no more than 2½% annually, regardless of the growth of the full and fair cash value of the town. Additional growth in the tax base will not provide new revenue for increased services due to any expanded development in town.

Additional restriction of the bill is that no town may increase any assessment upon any municipality by more than 4% above the previous year's assessment.

The town could override the levy limit only if approved by a ¾ local vote at a biennial general election or at a general election called by the General Court.

Fiscal autonomy for local school committees will be abolished. The newly created state Joint Labor Management Committee would also be eliminated. The sponsors of this bill had intended only to eliminate compulsory and binding arbitration rather than the Joint Labor Management Committee.

Renters would be allowed a deduction in the state income tax equal to one half of the rent paid for the taxpayer's principal residence.

In summary, the \$808,759 reduction in the property tax combined with the reduction of \$893,859 in motor vehicle excise amounts to a 17.5% loss in total local revenues in fiscal 1982. When coupled with an estimated 12% inflation rate, the effective loss of purchasing power for fiscal 1982 equals 29.5%. An additional cut of 15% in 1983 and subsequent years should also be coupled with the increasing rate of inflation - increasing loss of purchasing power every year until we reach the 2½% rate.

The town would not be able to add to its budget total at any time during that seven year period. It could only cut programs and personnel to the tune of \$319,000 each and every year of the seven years. An enviable job for the administration and Town Council.

movies can be used to encourage youngsters to read the books upon which these movies are based.

For older reluctant readers who have "no time for reading" due to their many interests and activities, such interests themselves can be used to stimulate reading. Few sports fans can resist books and magazines with colored photos and information about their favorite teams and players. Other exciting topics include pets, biking, skateboarding, camping, swimming, crafts, animals, cooking, favorite people, ghosts, and so on.

Recently, Jim Trelease, staff artist for the *Daily News*, enthralled over 200 children in the library's Community Room by sharing stories and books with them. From his vast experience, of reading to his own and other children, Trelease has prepared a *Read Aloud Handbook for Parents and Teachers*, in which he explains the importance of reading to young children and provides a guide to 150 excellent read-alouds. This handbook is available at the library for those who wish to borrow it or you may purchase a copy for \$2.00 each, a true bargain.

Most of the books recommended by Trelease are



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Balboni Explains Position

To the Editor:

In response to articles appearing in the July 31st issue of the *Advertiser/News* regarding school administrators' salary increases, my position on this subject has been documented and is public record.

I, and several other committee members on several occasions, have raised the question of executive session, and a ruling of School Department Attorney John Teahan was that the action taken in executive session, when the increases were voted, is permissible under the Open Meeting Law. I deferred to Mr. Teahan's ruling. I do not believe that the intent of the School Committee was to hide any action. I do believe that a release of the committee's vote should have been made following the executive session.

My deepest concern from this episode is that the credibility of the committee has been eroded and that further budget discussion with the Town Council could possibly force administration and the School Committee into major budgetary planning that in turn could have severe effects on educational programs.

One of my principal objections in March of this year when the budget was being formed was the inclusion of 7% increases for all non-negotiated for personnel, which includes top administrators and clerical staff. I stated that to exceed the 5% granted to the teachers' association would create internal problems now and in the future and that all salaries should be adjusted accordingly at 5%. I further requested that the additional amount above 5% be allotted to our substitute teachers account so that their salaries could be more equitable. Both proposals were rejected.

It was said by Town Councilor Trehey that a "friendship deal" was created in granting the 6.5% raise over the \$3,000 merit increase to Mr. Hebert. Mr. Trehey has expressed a sentiment that many townspeople have - namely that many School Committee members have gone for many years without a serious challenge and are too secure in their positions, consequently, they are becoming too friendly with administration and, without realizing it, have become administratively dominated.

Controversy as a rule usually brings about some good. If the citizens of Agawam have become disenchanted with the committee's actions, perhaps some good qualified people will come forth as candidates in the next town election and bring some personnel changes to the School Committee. To use an old expression, "If you don't like it, do something about it."

Walter A. Balboni
School Committeeman

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- 8/12: Golumkis, mashed potatoes, grated carrot salad, lemon cobbler
- 8/13: Turkey soup, fresh rolls w/cheese, blueberry pie w/ice cream
- 8/14: Baked chicken, hash brown potatoes, mixed vegetable salad, fresh fruit
- 8/15: Tuna macaroni salad w/lettuce and tomatoes, fruit cocktail

available at the Agawam Public Library. One of his most important points stressed was that the appropriate book be matched with the appropriate child. He suggests beginning with simple stories and building to the classics over a period of years.

Take the time from your busy summer schedule to allow your child to discover the joy and adventure of exploring the library's vast store of reading materials. In addition, the library has children's records such as *Sesame Street*, *Walt Disney* and *Dr. Seuss*. The pride of owning a library card also stimulates children to read more.

Don't forget there is still time to enroll your child in the library's summer reading program and to have your child's picture hang in our Library Hall of Fame. Along with the joys of reading, children are treated to special entertainments every Wednesday from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Call or come to the library anytime from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday so that your child can embark on the exciting journey through the world of books.

School Sports Solid, Continued from Page 3

Assistant Superintendent James Bruno attributes the continuity and no-program-cut policy of the school board to the board's receptive attitude to sports over the years and for sound administration from coaches and the school department itself.

Added Bruno, himself a product of the local system where he starred in football during the 1950's, "You can't discount the community in this either. People here care about high school sports and have done many things to support it time and time again."

This is not to say that all is wine and roses for interscholastic sports. In June, when tension between the School Committee and Town Council developed over the school budget, there was talk for several days that some sports may be erased if councilors refused to vote to exceed the Governor's 4 percent tax cap.

The cloak-and-dagger intrigue quickly subsided, however. The schools maintained all interscholastic programs after the council voted on an 8.7 percent municipal budget.

Kibbe, Coon and board members have put their heads together and attempted to cut corners wherever possible.

Transportation, always a headache for schedule planners these days, has been reduced to closer-to-home contests. New uniforms and equipment were scrutinized at several points. Travel squads for varsity football and boys soccer has been reduced to one bus. Coaches salaries remained fixed for another year. More athletes are buying their own footwear.

Bruno says the \$14,000 raised from varsity football and basketball gates and concessions didn't hurt. The raising of ticket prices helped and last year's Thanksgiving Day game with West Springfield was responsible for some \$5,500 being added to the treasury.

School Committee Chairwoman Jessie Fuller commented that the current budget restraints occurring in sister communities could happen here, although she, as the majority of board members currently maintain, does not envision such Holyoke-style events seeping across the river.

"He (Kibbe) always brings in an austere budget and

it's sufficient to say that the board realizes how important sports are to a child's education. I don't anticipate major cutbacks in sports. The people wouldn't stand for it," she offered.

But Kibbe, a 25-year veteran of teaching, coaching and athletic department directing, isn't ready to count his chickens. He's playing a year-at-a-time game. He says thus far the school board has not seen fit to cut athletics and has remained more than reasonable on his budget requests.

The AD refuses to disregard a possible fallout from area systems meat-grinding athletics. He offered this advice to the penny-pinching hawks in surrounding cities and towns, "School sports are educationally vital. Saving money at the kids' expense is not wise. We can save now but pay later when a kid gets into trouble because of athletic cutbacks. It's that simple."

School Bus Safety Tour Scheduled

Agawam Police Safety Officer Sgt. Alfred J. Longhi, assisted by members of the Agawam Junior Women's Club, will hold the seventh annual School Bus Safety Orientation on Friday, August 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sgt. Longhi urges parents to bring their children to the Community Room at the Agawam Public Library for a Winnie-the-Pooh safety filmstrip, which will be shown every half hour beginning at 10:00. The Juniors' Safety Bug will then bring them outside where they will learn how to travel a school bus safely from a representative of the DePalma Bus Company.

Open to kindergarten students and other new bus riders, this program is designed to acquaint children with the layout of the school bus and safety rules before that all important first day of school. For much less apprehension for children on the first day of school, parents should bring them to the school bus tour.

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SPORTS

Lunden Construction SHAA Girls 13-15 League Champs



Members of the Lunden Construction team are pictured above. From left to right, front row: Linda Peck, Cindy Cassavant, Nora Lloyd, and Lisa Herd. Second row, same order: Tracy Peck, Kim Drowns, Kris Smus and Kathy Dobek. Third row, Ken Peck, Manager and Roger Cassavant, coach. photo by Jack Devine

Not pictured are Jackie Gordon, Sherry Mayotte, Sue Lindsey, and Kelly Desmond.

The girls 13-15 league of the Sacred Heart Athletic Association has come to the end of its season with Lunden Construction the champs.

Lunden made a clean sweep in the playoffs against Aleo Equipment by beating them two games straight in the playoffs by the score of 11-3 and 12-5.

The first game of this exciting series took two nights to play due to thunderstorms. Cindy Cassavant pitched exceptionally well.

Game two was pitched by Kris Smus, who also did a fine job. The offense and defense of the whole Lunden team was superb.

The league commissioners would like to thank all involved for their time and effort to make this a successful

Legion Team Halted By Unpublicized Rule

by Jim Jenks

When the uniforms are turned in at the end of a season, whether it be football, basketball or, in this case, baseball, it is nice to know where the team stands. If the team finished first or last, there are still memories, some good and some bad. For the Agawam American Legion baseball team, the only memory will be how they were stopped not by another team, but by a rule.

Agawam Post 185 fell victim to a Massachusetts state rule declaring that all zone champions must be decided by July 29. The Hampden County rulebook states play will start on July 15, 1980 and must be completed by July 31, 1980. And there the problems began.

With the two squads tied at a 6-5 record in the second half of the season, a playoff game was scheduled for Sunday, July 27th, to decide the championship. Agawam went into the "pre-playoff" contest in a must-win situation. If they won, they were to play Holyoke in a best of three series for the zone title, or if they lost, be done for the year.

The Post 185 nine came out on top by a narrow 3-2 margin. The scene was then set for the best of three series with Holyoke.

The first of these games was scheduled for July 28th at Mackenzie Field in Holyoke where the home Post 325 took a 4-3 thriller in 11 innings. It was at this time that State Chairman James Denver pointed out the state ruling about the zone champions being decided by July 29th.

However, Denver hoped that he would be granted a two-day extension by a majority of the state committeemen. It was not to be.

On the 29th, Denver brought a sudden end to the playoff hopes of Agawam Post 185 and also to West Springfield by enforcing the state rule and ending competition that very day.

"I feel like we were robbed," remarked Agawam's Boo Smith, "and I bet most the other guys do too."

To Denver's lament, though, he was the only one to favor the extension. "I would find no one who would go along and give these teams more time," he stated. According to Denver, the mistake was just a "typo" and for Agawam, it was a painful one at that.

AAA's Dalton Takes State Batting Title

Debbie Dalton, swinging a hot bat at the recently held state tournament in Agawam, went 9 for 13 and posted a .692 average to lead all other competitors. She outdistanced her nearest rival by 109 points.

Debbie is the regular shortstop and occasional pitcher for the Agawam Athletic Association's Suburban Girls softball team. At 14, Debbie pulled off quite an accomplishment in a league dominated by 15-year-olds.

Catcher Colleen Ferry finished 8th in the batting race with a .6 for 13 total and a .462 average.

Congratulations to both girls for their fine showing.

Sarat Ford Team Breaks Tie

Coach Ed Morace and his Sarat Ford squad in the Suburban Baseball League met second place Northampton for the second time last Friday, August 1st. Sarat's, then in third place, was trying to break a tie with this strong Northampton team.

Starting lineup for Sarat Ford was Scott Karam, pitcher; Keith Mercadante, catcher; Mike Knight, first; Tony Venturini, second; Danny Fruwirth, shortstop; Tim Ayre, third; Nadim Yacteen, right field; Paul Dezielle, centerfield; and Jim Egan, left field. Ron Morgan came in a shortstop in the fourth inning.

Both teams were evenly matched as the score was again tied 1-1 at the end of the seventh inning. Extra in-

nings were on tap!

With Northampton at bat, the defensive plays of Keith Mercadante, Tim Ayre, and Nadim Yacteen helped Scott Karam retire the side.

In the eighth inning, Karam, the leadoff batter, put his all into the bat and hit a 380-plus yard homerun to win the game 2-1.

Northampton's pitcher Simone gave up 5 hits while Karam let go 4.

Playoffs will start August 14th - time and place to be determined at a later date. Agawam wishes Coach Morace and his squad best of luck for this series.

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'Sportsman Corner

By Bill Chiba

The weather! Hot, air oppressive, clammy and the sky threatening to release a deluge of rain any moment. As I sat in the boat waiting for a horn pout to hit, I wondered if it was a good idea to have convinced Angelo Borgatti and Ginger Pisano to try for a good catch of bullheads. We tried several spots in this Berkshire pond and only caught three bass and a small perch for the first two hours of ardent fishing. Angelo was singing the blues, blaming the hard rain that had fallen in the morning for the lack of cooperation by the fish. Ginger sat stoically in the stern of the 16-foot Starcraft with his legs elevated resting on the cooler we had brought along for the fish we wanted to catch.

Finally, Angie stated, "Let's move and anchor between those two rocks. I used to catch hundreds of bullheads a few years ago there."

We upped anchor and relocated. I had just finished tying off the forward anchor, when I heard a slight hiss. I turned toward Angie and he was bringing in a good sized bullhead. By the time I got my line in the water, Ginger was throwing on into the cooler and Angie had his third one in the bucket he had located by his elbow.

The fishing was fast and furious, and when it slackened off, we had 68 bullheads and six perch in the boat. It amazed me how effortlessly my two fishing partners took the horn pout off their hooks. I would gingerly run my hand up the fish trying to avoid the side and back horns. Consequently, I was catching one fish to every three of my companions.

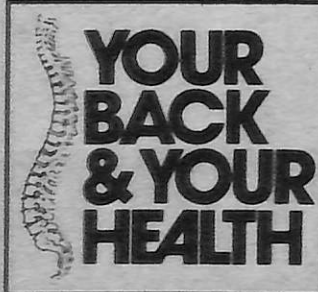
Finally, Ginger showed me how to quiet the fish quickly by running my right hand down the line and putting my finger on it's head. For some unknown reason, this stopped the bullhead from thrashing, then I'd grab the fish, fingers opened, with the left hand around the belly. This method made it impossible for the fish to horn me. After a few tries, I was keeping up with the two experts.

It is fun to catch a large amount of fish; believe me, though, it's another thing to look at sixty-some fish and realize that you have to clean and skin every one before putting them in the freezer.

To Angie, the more the merrier. He took out his small pocket knife, reached into the bucket for a bullhead, made two small incisions in the right places, pulled sharply with his two hands and the cleaned, skinned part of the bullhead was thrown in the platter and the other part into the pail provided for it. Total time - three seconds. Amazing! It was a day of learning for me. It didn't take fifteen minutes for the entire catch to be cleaned.

To top off a perfect day, the wife dipped ten of the fish in a batter and we had them for supper. Delicious.

Of course, the fishing for perch and bullheads was old hat for Angie and Ginger. I am looking forward for another excursion soon. I will appreciate the fish all the more this winter when the wife will ask, "How about fish for dinner tonight?"



Conditioning for Tennis

Many thousands more people each year take up the game of tennis. Far too many of them aren't physically ready for such a strenuous activity and they suffer all kinds of sore muscles and aches and pains at the start.

This isn't necessary. A carefully planned program of regular exercise starting four to six weeks ahead of the actual playing can avoid most of the physical discomfort and add immeasurably to the enjoyment of the game.

Interval sprinting (alternating running and walking) is excellent, but if outdoor running isn't possible, skipping rope is a good alternative. Note: in all exercises, start slowly

with a bare minimum of repetitions and build up slowly.

To increase agility practice side-stepping rapidly without crossing your feet, first to one side and then to the other. Then move ahead and back the same way. You can also practice forehand and backhand swings, with the racquet press on, and consciously going for good form. Squeezing a tennis ball regularly helps to develop a strong grip, essential to good tennis.

It is also recommended that you get a chiropractic check-up before the season starts. Having back problems takes the fun out of the game, but many

AAA Girls Suburban Softball Team In 2nd

The AAA Girls Suburban 13-15 Softball Team ended its season on a high note with a second place finish in the playoffs held last Saturday at Borgatti Park.

In game one, the Agawam girls knocked off last year's state and regional champs, the Wilbraham Falcons, by a score of 14-6. Linda Desmarais turned in a strong mound effort in quieting the usually heavy Falcon bats. Shawn Lappie was outstanding defensively at first base and going 4 for 4 at the plate. Colleen Ferry notched successive triples to lead the orange and brown attack.

Ending the game in 90-plus degree heat, the girls had a 15-minute break before again taking the field to play this year's league and Mass. State champs, the West Springfield Terrierettes. What started out to be a slugging contest with both teams scoring three runs in the first inning soon turned into a defensive duel.

Debbie Dalton knocked in two RBI's with a double and rode home on Ellen Calkins' 2-bagger. West Springfield scored what proved to be the winning run in the fourth inning and added two more insurance runs later to make the final score 6-3.

This was a well-played game by both teams under what were not favorable weather conditions. Congratulations to West Springfield for their fine season.

The AAA girls are to be commended for the fine showing this year, a year of rebuilding for the team. There were only two returning players from last year's team and only two 15-year-olds on the entire roster in a league where most starting teams are dominated by 15-year-olds. The Agawam girls were inexperienced, but eager starting out with a 1 and 3 mark. They made a remarkable turnaround to finish 9-5.

Team members are Ellen Calkins, Debbie Dalton, Linda Desmarais, Mary Dupre, Colleen Ferry, Lena Kozliski, Maria Kozloski, Shawn Lappie, Lisa Laudato, Gina Letellier, Leah Negrucci, Kelly Slamon, Ellen Smith, Andrea Tebaldi, Barbara Walsh, and Mary Walsh.

Hike-Bike-Skate-Walk Jog-A-Thon

Camp Millbrook, a YMCA operated day camp located on Perry Lane in Agawam, had over one hundred boys and girls ages 6-12 participate in the first annual world service 5-mile Hike-Bike-Walk-Jog-A-Thon. According to Kathryn Zingg, camp director, the funds raised for this event will be used to support the Y's work in foreign countries. "The money raised during this event will help to provide Y workers like myself, in other countries, with the opportunity to serve less fortunate children. The Millbrook children's money may help to provide camping experiences for children who otherwise may not have had that opportunity." Camp Millbrook campers hiked from their camp grounds located on Perry Lane to Robinson State Park. Each child recruited sponsors for the hike.

Over one hundred children participated in this event with some jogging, biking, hiking, walking, and even roller skating. With the help of the Agawam Police Department, the children arrived safely and participated in a variety of field day events at the state park site. Camp Millbrook children will hopefully raise \$500 for world service, making their efforts all worthwhile.

such problems can be avoided through spinal adjustment in the pre-season period.

from Dr. Joseph Schlaffer
Chiropractor, Agawam

Suburban Sacred Heart Team Wins 1; Loses 1

On July 31st, the Sacred Heart Crusaders of the 14-16 Suburban Baseball League came through with an impressive win over their arch-rival Sarat Ford by the score of 5-3. Bobby Eggleston through a masterful game, allowing nine hits, but coming through in the clutch with strikeouts with men on base.

In the short series between these two teams, Sacred Heart leads 3 out of 4 games.

Mike Desmarais and Craig Castonguay led the hitting attack.

On August 1 the first place leaders, Holyoke Allies, came to play the Crusaders. The game was 2-1 in favor of the Allies until the sixth inning when two errors by Sacred Heart gave the Allies two unearned runs. Dave Vecchiarelli lost the heartbreaker giving up only five hits, getting six strikeouts, and allowing only one walk.

Camp Rainbow Visits D.A.R. State Forest

The fifth week of Camp Rainbow, Agawam's summer program for special needs children, will end this Friday with a trip to the D.A.R. State Forest in Goshen. A full day of hiking in the woods and swimming in one of the area's warmest and cleanest lakes will be a fine conclusion to a very busy week.

Five older campers and two counselors were lucky enough to go on a 6-mile canoe trip down the Connecticut River from Hadley to Northampton. This trip was co-sponsored by Camp Rainbow and the Agawam Youth Center.

The younger campers had a hayride, and a trip to see the movie *Battlestar Galactica* and to ride the Alpine Slide were also conducted.

Next week will feature a trip to Laughing Brook Wildlife Sanctuary in Hampden.

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Maryann Miranda, left, a worker on Paul Cavallo's summer youth employment program, is given some helpful advice from school secretary Beverly Ladizki. Maryann is one of many youths aided by the summer work program. photo by Jack Devine

Youth Employment Program Serves Several In Agawam

The 1980 Summer Youth Employment Program is a CETA-sponsored program administered by the Westfield School Department under the auspices of the Hampden County Manpower Consortium. Enrollees in this work experience program must be CETA eligible and between the ages of 14 and 21 of either sex in order to qualify for a position within the program.

For the first time in many years, Agawam's program includes 20 fourteen and fifteen-year-old enrollees along with 24 sixteen to twenty-one year olds. Each enrollee was interviewed and job-matched for the position he holds during the 8-week program which runs from July 1st to August 22nd.

The enrollee is assigned a field supervisor and a job site supervisor at an orientation session prior to the beginning of his/her work experience. The rules and regulations governing the SYEP are outlined by the director, Paul Cavallo, and each enrollee is held responsible for knowing and following these guidelines.

Enrollees receive many supportive services in addition to their work experience. The staff includes a career counselor who enlightens enrollees about the labor market and occupations in small, informal classroom settings. If an enrollee has problems that are not work-related, they can also obtain counseling through a crisis counselor who is available 24 hours a day.

All job sites are monitored on a daily basis by the SYEP staff. Sites consist of town and federal agencies which number 27. Diversity is a keynote to the sites with enrollees working at Camp Rainbow, a camp for special needs children, and others holding clerical positions in offices at Town Hall.

The number of hours enrollees work is based on his/her age. The breakdown is as follows: 14-15-year-olds, 15 hours per week; 16-18-year-olds, 25 hours per week; and 19-21-year-olds, 30 hours per week.

A final component of the program is that of remediation. Sixteen of SYEP's enrollees are attending the Agawam Summer School now being held at the Agawam Junior High School. The director of the summer school is part of the CETA staff.

Paul Cavallo, director of the Summer Youth Employment Program, boasted a bit about his operation. "I am proud to see that at the midway point of our program, the SYEP has had only one termination. The response

from the job site supervisors regarding the enrollees' performances have been gratifying. Our staff looks forward to four more weeks of the same."



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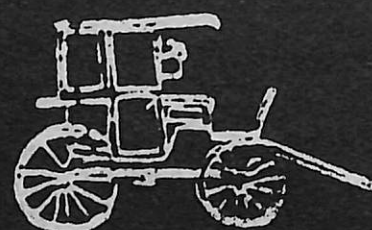
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FOR SALE: 1979 Ford Pickup truck. Standard trans., low mileage. Call after 6 p.m. 789-1159.

FOR SALE: 20 cross rails ranch fence, 6 post, \$25. Call 789-0679 after 4:00.

FOR SALE: A B Dick hand-operated mimeo machine; excellent condition, good for private use or for small club or business. Best Offer. Call 786-5624 between 4 and 6 p.m.

FOR SALE: 135 gal. fish tank with rod iron stand with fish and acc. 786-5598 or 781-5055

FOR SALE: Black contemporary sofa and chair, \$300. 786-5598 or 781-5055.

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LEGAL NOTICE AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on August 14, 1980, at 8:15 p.m., in the Town Administration Hearing Room, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA. This hearing, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws Chapter 131, Section 40, is called to act on the petition of the Department of Public Works, Agawam, MA., to perform work subject to the Act in the area of Southwick Street, Agawam, MA.

Anthony P. Liquori, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on August 14, 1980 at 7:30 p.m., in the Town Administration Hearing Room, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA. This hearing, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws Chapter 131, Section 40 is called to act on the petition of Western Mass. Electric Company, to perform work subject to the Act in the area of Oak Street, Agawam, MA.

Anthony P. Liquori, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on August 14, 1980, at 8:00 p.m., in the Town Administration Hearing Room, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA. This hearing, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws Chapter 131, Section 40, is called to act on the petitioner of the Department of Public Works, Agawam, MA., to perform work subject to the Act in the area of School Street, Agawam, MA.

Anthony P. Liquori, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission

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LEGAL NOTICE

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids will be received for Fire Department Work Uniforms by the Town Manager of the Town of Agawam, Massachusetts until 2:00 p.m. on August 29, 1980 at the Town Administration Building, 36 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts 01001.

Specifications and bid blanks may be obtained at the Office of the Town Clerk, 36 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Period bid prices are to cover: July 1, 1980 - June 30, 1981.

TOWN OF AGAWAM

Sealed bids will be received for Traffic Paint until August 19, 1980 at 2:00 P.M. in the office of the Superintendent of Public Works, Administration Building, Agawam, MA at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and all bid prices read aloud. Proposal form and Specifications may be obtained at the office of the Superintendent of Public Works. The Town Manager reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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TAG SALE: One Day Only! Sat., Aug. 9th, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. only. Moving - many odds and ends, clothing, some furniture. 1101 No. Westfield St., Feeding Hills

TAG SALE: The Agawam Sea Scouts will hold a tag sale Saturday, Aug. 9th, at 300 Main Street in the empty lot across from Mushy's Batting Cage. From 9:00 a.m. Proceeds to benefit fund to refurbish the old fishing trawler, the *Bobby D.*

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See Cincotta At Kitchen House Solid As A Rocky's

by Penny Stone

"Your kitchen is worth 10-12% of the value of your home," says Stephen Cincotta, president of THE KITCHEN HOUSE business at Rocky's Home Center stores. "So remember this when you redecorate."

And "redecorating" is apparently what many homeowners are doing these days instead of buying bigger and more costly houses. "Now that home buying is at a premium, the remodeling business is zooming," reports Cincotta, who has worked for Rocky's for over ten years and has recently acquired ownership of their six Kitchen House displays.

The KITCHEN HOUSE itself has been in existence within Rocky's six area stores for four years and now houses about 30,000-40,000 square feet of cabinet displays, providing the largest display of its kind in Western New England. They offer many different styles and models including some custom designs, stock items, and an unfinished model. Their cabinets, mostly Overton and Quaker Maid, are made from solid oak, cherry, pine and pecan.

The price for a kitchen can range anywhere from \$1,500 to \$12,000 and "the work done will appreciate



Stephen Cincotta, right, owner and operator of the KITCHEN HOUSE at Rocky's Hardware Store, shows assistant Rocky's manager Michael Lazarri one of the many fine makes of custom built cabinetry now available at the store. photo by Jack Devine

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7% or so every year, if it's done well," Cincotta reminds us. "Your kitchen should be built to last."

The appliances he carries are also on the high end, featuring names like Thermadore and Sub Zero. "Appliances are something which should not have to be replaced...they should last a lifetime," he adds.

In addition, the Kitchen House owns their own countertop manufacturing facility. They make countertops for condominiums and office buildings all over New England and sell to retailers in Western Mass., Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

"Most people understand that remodeling their kitchen is a real investment in the value of their home and property, but few have the knowledge or experience to go about doing it," he adds. Cincotta himself brings to the business specialized training from the American Institute for Kitchen Dealers and the Quaker School of Design in Pennsylvania, in addition to a college education. His 15 well-trained employees within the six stores and warehouse provide customers with a variety of specialized services, including a measuring and design service and regular instructional seminars - both free of charge.

When a prospective remodeler visits the KITCHEN HOUSE, a knowledgeable salesman is available to discuss specific needs, desires, and price range. A free estimate, including measurements and a three-dimensional drawing, is offered to help the customer visualize what the designed kitchen will look like. "Some people come in for an estimate and tell us they'll be back in six months or a year and you'd be surprised

at how many people do just that," declares the owner. "They come back even a year or so later to get the job done."

Free instructional seminars are offered every other Wednesday night at one of the six locations to help educate the public as to what to look for in a good cabinet, what to expect in installation costs, inconvenience, and time commitment. Customers will learn, for instance, that installation can cost 40-50% of the total price and do-it-yourselfers will pick up many useful tips from the professionals. The next seminar to be held in the Agawam store will take place in September.

Also in September, the Kitchen House will again display part of their extensive line at the Eastern States Exposition. At this time, they plan to feature a sampling of their new line of bathroom fixtures and cabinets in addition to their kitchen designs.

Though eventually Cincotta hopes to branch out and establish distribution centers outside of Rocky's stores, at the present time he finds the relationship most beneficial to his business. While people are buying from the KITCHEN HOUSE because of the high quality products and services they provide, they will keep coming back, says Cincotta, "because of the durability and reliability of the business for follow-up work. People need to know that if anything should go wrong, they know right where to find you; that your operation is not some fly-by-night set up, here today and gone tomorrow."

Rocky's has been around for 52 years now and present trends indicate that the Kitchen House will enjoy a long and successful existence as well.

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